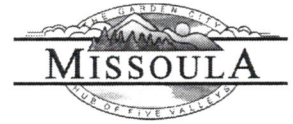




Department of Grants and Community Programs

223 West Alder
Mailing address: 200 West Broadway
Missoula MT 59802-4292
Phone: (406) 258-4939 Fax: (406) 258-4843



RECEIVED

OCT 02 2015

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE

October 2, 2015

Montana Environmental Quality Council
PO Box 201704
Helena, MT 59620-1704

RE: Environmental Assessment for HUD-funded Housing Project

To Whom It May Concern:

The City-County of Missoula has requested public comment on a draft environmental assessment for a housing project in Missoula.

Please see the attached combined public notice of the Finding of No Significance/Notice of Intent to Request a Release of Funds (FONSI/NOI/RROF).

A copy of the environmental assessment is available upon request. Call or email me at 406-258-3688 or skennedy@co.missoula.mt.us.

Sincerely,

Sindie S. Kennedy
Grants Administrator II
Environmental Certifying Officer
City-County of Missoula

ssk:

enclosure/



**COMBINED NOTICE
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT and
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS
(FONSI/NOI/RROF)**

September 30, 2015

**State of Montana
Department of Commerce
HOME Investment Partnerships Program
P.O. Box 200523
Helena, MT 59620
406-841-2770**

**City of Missoula
Department of Grants and Community Programs
435 Ryman Street
Missoula, MT 59802
406-258-3688**

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS:

On or about October 16, 2015, the above-named City of Missoula will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on behalf of Homeword, Inc. for the release of \$385,000 City of Missoula Entitlement Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and \$100,000 City of Missoula HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds.

On or about October 16, 2015, the Montana Department of Commerce will also submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on behalf of Homeword, Inc. for the release of \$750,000 State HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) funds.

CDBG funds are provided under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (PL 93-383) to acquire land and cover engineering fees for the construction of 26 studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom units of permanent housing for low and moderate income individuals and families, at the corner of California and Montana Streets – as part of the Millsite Revitalization Project. HOME funds are provided under Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, as amended (PL 101-625) to contribute to the construction costs of the 26-unit apartment building.

Finding of No Significant Impact

The City and State have determined that such requests for release of CDBG and HOME funds will not constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (PL 91-190) is not required.

The reasons for the decision not to prepare such Statement are as follows: the project site is within Missoula's urban core and it is currently an empty lot with no particular environmental or social value. Given this, and the environmental analysis referenced in this notice, the project will have no significant impact on the human environment.

An Environmental Review Record documenting the review of all project activities in respect to impacts on the environment has been made by the above-named City of Missoula. This Environmental Review Record is on file at the Missoula City/County Department of Grants and Community Programs, 223 West Alder, and is available by email or for public examination and copying upon request Monday-Friday between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. The Environmental Review Record is also on file at the Montana Department of Commerce HOME Program, 301 S. Park Ave, Helena, MT 59601, and is available for public examination and copying upon request Monday-Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Public Comments on Findings

All interested agencies, groups and persons disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the City of Missoula to the Department of Grants and Community Programs on or before October 15, 2015. All such comments so received will be considered prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

Release of Funds

The City of Missoula certifies to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that Sindie Kennedy in her capacity as Grants Administrator II, Environmental Certifying Officer, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows Homeword, Inc. to use City of Missoula CDBG and HOME funds.

The State of Montana certifies to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that Jennifer H. Olson in her capacity as Community Grants Bureau Chief, Environmental Certifying Officer, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows Homeword, Inc. to use State HOME funds.

Objections to the Release of Funds

HUD will accept objections to the request for release of CDBG and HOME funds and the certifications for a period of at least fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are made on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Missoula or Montana Department of Commerce; (b) the City of Missoula or Montana Department of Commerce has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before the approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency, acting pursuant to 40 CFR part 1504, has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Region VIII Office, 8ADE, 1670 Broadway Street, Colorado 80202-4801. The anticipated last day of the objection period is November 2, 2015, but potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Sindie Kennedy
Grants Administrator II
Missoula Department of Grants and Community Programs

Publish: September 30, 2015 and October 7, 2015